

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, January 26, 2001

Charleston AFB's buildings, homes continue to improve

By Senior Airman Donald Church
 437 AW Public Affairs

With a snip of the scissors and the pounding of pavement, three construction projects came to a close while another began at Charleston AFB.

Construction began Jan. 19 on a new, \$18.1 million Corrosion Control Facility for the 437th and 315th Maintenance Squadrons. Despite the threat of inclement weather, participants in the ceremony eagerly broke ground on what will become a 55,000 square foot aircraft refurbishment and painting facility. It will be located between Buildings 536 and 578 and will eventually house the maintenance squadrons' structural maintenance elements. Construction is scheduled to be complete in early 2002.

The facility is being realized under a new contracting concept known as design-build. In the past, one firm designed a project and another firm built it. With the new design-build concept, one firm is now responsible for all phases of construction, including design. The project was awarded to the Austin Company, a firm that has recently designed and built a facility at Tinker AFB, Okla.

Among the Charleston facility's planned features are a fully enclosed aircraft washing and painting area, ceiling-mounted hydraulic painting platforms and areas for personnel and their equipment.

"We're looking forward to having a facility that complies with all the environmental regulations, has the functions we need and provides for the safety of our workers and their families," said Chief Master Sgt. Georgia Fallaw, 315MXS and project team member.

Along with groundbreaking for the Corrosion Control Facility Jan. 17, CAFB saw two finished products with the new Aircrew Life Support building and the Phase 2 renovated homes in the Hunley Park Housing Area Jan. 19.

"The \$4.1 million Aircrew Life Support facility represents a move by Air Mobility Command to streamline life support operations throughout the command to provide better customer service," said Captain Paul Lambertson, Aircrew Life Support Flight Commander.

AMC's first facility of this type was opened last year at McChord AFB, Wash., and it served as the model for Charleston's facility.

At the heart of the building is an innovative way of organizing and storing parachutes, life rafts, helmets and other aircrew life support gear. The building incorporates a \$256,000 high-density storage system. Through a system of gears and rollers, the aircrew equipment can be easily accessed and stored in a fraction of the space traditionally occupied using conventional storage areas. CAFB's life support provides service and maintains equipment for

over 1,100 personnel in six C-17 airlift squadrons, an aeromedical airlift squadron and the 1st Combat Camera Squadron, making it the largest in AMC.

"This new building is a huge leap forward," said Lt. Col. John Norton, 437th Operations Support Squadron commander. "But it means much more to our life support troops. It means pride and it means teamwork."

On hand for the ceremony were Col. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Richard Robichaud, life support functional manager for AMC.

"It's been a long time coming, but it's here now folks," said Findley. "We have ensured that we have world-class facilities for our world-class professionals."

Minutes later, across Dorchester Road at Hunley Park, another notable project was opened. With a ribbon tied across front of a home on 4003A Michigan Ave., Senior Airman Christopher Ruiz, 437th Airlift Wing Command Post, and Findley took scissors in hand and opened 20 more renovated homes in Hunley Park.

"Overall, I would have to say the biggest improvements were the increase in space and the tile floors," said Ruiz. "The whole project turned out great and I couldn't be happier. I've lived in base housing all of my life, and this is the best."

During renovations, the homes were completely gutted, floor plans



Photo by Senior Airman Donald Church

were rearranged and energy efficient appliances were installed. Other changes included the moving of the kitchen to the backside of the home and the removal of the inside mechanical closets. Electrical standards have been improved and efficient heat pump systems have been installed for heating and air conditioning. Outdoor area changes include easily maintained vinyl siding around the home as well as landscaping changes.

The homes opened represent a continuing project to bring the homes in Hunley Park in line with the rest of the base community. With Phase 1 completed, Phase 2 in progress and Phase 3 on the way, current and future Hunley Park residents will have more modern and convenient homes to live in.

"Hunley Park renovations have been a labor of love for a number of years; a great success story and award winning project," said Lt. Col. Jon Roop, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. "It's a great thing for the families that live here."



Exercise

Team Charleston members wait on a C-17 to deploy to North Auxillary Airfield as part of this week's mobility exercise.

Crisis Look 01-02 is the first exercise of its kind for Charleston AFB in more than two years.

The exercise tests Team Charllestons members' abilities to respond to real-world situations.

Most base agencies participated in Crisis Look 01-02. Almost 300 personnel deployed to the airfield. The exercise is scheduled to end Saturday.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier

IN THE NEWS

Airman of the Year



Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Dent,
437th Contracting Squadron

NCO of the Year



Tech. Sgt. George Lytle, 14th
Airlift Squadron

Senior NCO of the Year



Senior Master Sgt. Garry
Jones, 437th Maintenance
Squadron

Junior CGO of the Year



1st Lt. Robert Meadows, 437th
Maintenance Squadron

CAFB names top performers for 2000

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

It was an evening of loud yells, blasting horns, cowbells and other noisemakers as several hundred Team Charleston members enthusiastically cheered on their respective squadron and group members during the annual awards banquet Jan. 19 in the Charleston Club.

The 437th Logistics Group claimed five of the 10 available annual awards, the most of any group. Thirty-nine people from each of the five groups competed for the top 10 awards. The guest speaker for the evening was Brig. Gen. Peter Hennessey, director of Logistics, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.

Winning top honors in the competition were: Airman of the Year, Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Dent, 437th Contracting Squadron; NCO of the Year, Tech Sgt. George Lytle, 14th Airlift Squadron; Senior NCO of the Year, Senior Master Sgt. Garry Jones, 437th Maintenance Squadron; Junior CGO of the Year, 1st Lt. Robert Meadows, 437 MXS; Senior CGO of the Year, Capt. Hugh Verhoef, 437th Logistics Group; First Sergeant of the Year, Master Sgt. Janet Osborne, 437th Transportation Squadron; and Honor Guard Airman of the Year, Senior Airman Ashok Kori, 437th Medical Group.

Top recipients for Outstanding Civilian of the Year were: Category I, Leslie Carlton, 437th Comptroller Squadron; Category II, Joy Delk, 437 CPTS; and Category III, Nancy Corbin, 437th Services Squadron.

Emcees, Master Sgt. Tammy Vanetta and Staff Sgt. Michael Hall, joked with the audience, often finding a variety of ways to delay the announcement of winners in each category while keeping the audience on edge. Some jokes included misplacing the envelope at the last minute, lengthy drum roles before announcing the winner, claiming they could not make out the writing on the card and borrowing a machete from 437th Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Harvey Hampton at the last minute to open the envelope.

During the evening festivities, the words of "pride, passion and professionalism," could be seen on the balloons at each table and from the words of the two emcees and the wing commander. There were 37 corporate

Senior CGO of the Year



Capt. Hugh Verhoef, 437th
Logistics Group

what he had learned from other leaders and at Charleston AFB as a maintenance officer during his first assignment.

"After this dinner, you can go home and call some of your buddies from the private sector and ask them two questions," said Hennessey. "First you ask them if they are the best in the world at what they do. And the next question you can ask them is what difference are they making in the world today. Your answer will be better than theirs."

Hennessey explained that upon graduating from the Air Force Academy, he was everyone's bet to get out as soon as his time was up.

"My destiny was clear until I reported to my first duty assignment," said Hennessey. "Pride and personal accountability was a 24/7 thing here (Charleston AFB) as it is now. Fundamentally, I learned that my service was going to be about leadership."

Leadership has nothing to do with rank, position and what you learn in military schools, according to Hennessey. Hennessey used a definition of leadership that he read from a relatively unknown author. "Leadership isn't a basket of tricks and skills," he said. "Leadership is about the quality, character and courage of the person who is the leader."

Hennessey told the story of a Royal Air Force pilot, Wing Commander Douglas Bader, who had lost his legs in an aviation accident in 1931 but eventually got to fly for the RAF again in World War II. He explained how Bader got 23 confirmed kills until his Spitfire collided with his German opponent. He bailed out and was captured, but his artificial legs were destroyed. The Germans thought so highly of him, they allowed the British to airdrop in a new pair of legs, but eventually took them away after his fourth escape attempt.

"The lesson here is he led by example and it had nothing to do with his rank or position," concluded Hennessey. "What will the people around us remember about us?"

"I think you know in your heart that all your awards and excellence are not the mark of true excellence," said Hennessey.

Col. Rusty Findley, 437 AW commander, wrapped up the evening's events by calling everyone in the room winners and praised those who arranged for the evening events. "They put it on the balloons and probably said it too many times tonight. I haven't made a speech in this wing in the last six

First Sergeant of the Year



Master Sgt. Janet Osborne,
437th Transportation Squadron

Outstanding Civilian of the Year, Category III



Nancy Corbin, 437th Ser-
vices Squadron

Outstanding Civilian of the Year, Category II



Joy Delk, 437th Comptroller
Squadron

Outstanding Civilian of the Year, Category I



Leslie Carlton, 437th Comp-
troller Squadron

Honor Guard Airman of the Year



Senior Airman Ashok Kori,
437th Medical Group

CAFB ADC represents the accused

Charleston AFB active-duty members facing adverse legal or administrative action by the Air Force can turn to Capt. Marci Lawson, the base's Area Defense Counsel, for free legal advice and representation.

Lawson is an Air Force attorney whose mission as ADC is to represent and advise Air Force members against the Air Force when the Air Force (i.e. a supervisor or commander) takes an official adverse action against the member.

For example, Lawson may advise or assist a member who receives an Article 15, notification of administrative separation, a referral performance report, or who is arrested or facing court-martial charges.

"Our office is a 'defense' office, and we provide independent legal representation," Lawson said. "We are not the legal office, whose primary mission is to advise commanders. We have a completely separate chain of command from the base legal office."

The ADC office is a tenant unit, not assigned to the 437th Airlift Wing. The tenant unit reports to the Chief Circuit Defense Counsel of the Eastern Circuit, who is part of the Air Force Legal Services Agency at Bolling

AFB, Washington, D.C.

"What this all means is there is no way your commander or any commander in the 437 AW or in Air Mobility Command can influence the legal advice that our office provides," said Lawson.

She added that all information disclosed by clients for the purpose of legal representation is absolutely confidential.

Lawson, a 1995 graduate of the University of Toledo School of Law, received her attorney's license from the state of Ohio. Her undergraduate degree is from Ohio State University.

Lawson has been an Air Force attorney for five years. She worked in the legal offices at Cannon AFB, N.M., and here before moving to the ADC office in June, 1999.

"I feel truly honored to have been given the rewarding opportunity to defend clients for a living," she said. "A part of me wishes that I could continue to be the base's ADC forever, but, as in any Air Force career field, no job is forever."

Lawson said the ADC office consists of herself and Maye Nussman, "our wonderful and experienced defense paralegal." ADC office hours are 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.,

Monday-Friday. They are located in Bldg. 503, Room 119 on the first floor, near the Military Personnel Flight. The ADC phone number is 963-4417.

Air Force members may choose to hire a civilian lawyer in addition to, or instead of, a military lawyer, but civilian attorney's fees are at the member's own expense.

"The most serious cases for which our office provides legal representation involve courts-martial, however, most of our clients are not facing criminal charges and seek advice on less serious (albeit very important) matters," Lawson said.

"If you are an Air Force member and the Air Force is taking any adverse action against you, you should contact our office," she said. "There are certain matters for which our office does not provide representation. I ask you to simply contact us if you feel you need defense-related legal advice, and if there is some reason that we cannot assist you directly, we will let you know at that time. If we cannot help you directly, we will be happy to direct you to the people who can."

(Submitted by Charleston AFB ADC. Capt. Tracy Velino contributed to this article.)

Valentine's messages



The *Airlift Dispatch* is taking submissions to print your Valentine's Day messages to your loved ones in the Feb. 9 edition. Notes written in 25 words or less should be sent to: jason.smith@charleston.af.mil by noon, Feb. 5.

Family members of deployed personnel, who wish to send a Valentine's message, should include a temporary email address of the intended recipient. An email with a link to the *Airlift Dispatch* online will be sent to the individual.

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Retirement ceremony: The 1st Combat Camera Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Jeffrey Unger Monday, 11 a.m., at the base education center ballroom. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Mark DePass at 963-3366 or Angelo Costanzo at 963-3481.

Retirement ceremony: The 437th Aerial Port Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Timothy Good Thursday, 2 p.m., at the aerial delivery bay, Bldg. 174. For more information, call 963-3178.

Prayer Breakfast: The annual National Prayer Breakfast will be held Feb. 27, 7 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Chaplain (Col.) Cecil Richardson, Air Combat Command chaplain, will be the speaker. The National Prayer Breakfast dates back to 1952 when members of Congress, Cabinet members, clergy and lay people gathered to pray for the newly elected President Dwight Eisenhower. Since then, it has been a yearly event at which the same members gather around the table. For more information, or to RSVP, call Chaplain (Capt.) Richard Novotny at 963-2536 or your first sergeant.

Around the base

Scooter recall: Excite Ltd. is voluntarily recalling 80,000 scooters. The front folding mechanism of the scooters can create a pinch-point.

Excite has received nine reports of pinch-point injuries to children including one partially amputated fingertip and eight lacerations. The recall involves Excite Super Speeder II and Viper scooters. The scooters were sold exclusively at Rite Aid stores nationwide from August through December. Consumers should stop using the scooters immediately and contact Excite to receive a free cap that will cover the front of the folding mechanism. For more information, call 1-888-571-3731.

STU: There will be a Stripes to Uniforms dinner Tuesday, 5-7 p.m., at the chapel annex. The chapel-sponsored event will be hosted by the 437th Supply Squadron. The menu for the dinner includes chili, hot dogs, nachos with cheese, hot wings and more. All Charleston AFB dorm residents are welcome to attend the free dinner.

Black History Month: The 437th Airlift Wing and the African-American Heritage Council is holding a Black History Month Opening Ceremony Luncheon Thursday, 10:30 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Charleston Channel 5 News Reporter Carolyn Murray will be the guest speaker. The cost is \$9 for club members and \$12 for non-members. For more information, call Senior Airman Cassandra Rainey at 963-2558.

First Six: There is a First Six meet-

ing Thursday, 3 p.m., at the Charleston Club. A special guest speaker will be present and nominations for First Six Officers will be taken. Only paid members can nominate or be nominated for the positions. All those in attendance will have the opportunity to become members. Officer positions available are president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and membership officer. There will also be a meeting Feb. 15, 3 p.m., at the Charleston Club, with membership and nomination opportunities. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Lisa Barkman at 963-6336 or Staff Sgt. Michael Hall at 963-2392.

Curbside recycling: The family housing curbside pickup dates for February are Thursday and Feb. 15. For more information, call 963-2690.

Induction ceremony: The 2001 Chiefs Induction Ceremony will be held Feb. 3, 6 p.m., at the Charleston Club. All chief master sergeant selectees for 2001 will be honored. Chiefs, squadron commanders and spouses are welcome. Attendees may invite as many guests as desired. The cost is \$20 per person. Dress is semi formal or mess dress. For more information, or to RSVP, call Staff Sgt. Michelle Flavors at 963-5497.

University of Phoenix: Ken Haight, University of Phoenix representative, will be at the base education office Feb. 8, 2 p.m., to provide

information about on-line undergraduate and graduate programs. For more information, call 963-4575.

Palace Envoy: Requests for majors and captains to participate in Palace Envoy are being taken at www.eucom.mil/programs/jctp/jctpmits.htm. The military liaison opportunity is open to active-duty majors and captains, of all branches of service, who want a 179-day tour to the countries of Georgia, Slovenia, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Lithuania and Estonia. The mission requires dealing with senior officers in countries that have had few previous contacts with the U.S. military.

Valentine Carnation sale: The 437th Airlift Wing Staff Booster Club is selling carnations for Valentine's Day. Red, white and pink flowers are available. The cost is \$1 each or six for \$5. Those who purchase six or more carnations will be eligible to win a Valentine's Day gift basket. The prize basket will include a

one-night stay at the Mill's House, dinner for two at Sticky Fingers, a carriage ride, a bottle of German wine and lots of other chocolate goodies. To order, call Master Sgt. Diane Chancey at 963-5493, Master Sgt. Dennis Pinner at 963-5635 or Tech. Sgt. Vicky Wetzell at 963-5576.

Valentine bears: The 437th Transportation Squadron Spirit Club and Women's Group is selling sweetheart grams for Valentine's Day. The sweetheart grams are stuffed bears, and there are two options for \$5. Option A is a three-inch stuffed bear with chocolate candies and option B is a five-inch stuffed bear with flowers. Orders must be placed by Feb. 9 and will only be delivered to base areas. To order, call Airman 1st Class Esther Oliver at 963-4202 or Airman 1st Class Sarah Mears at 963-4205.

Family Support Center

Hearts Apart: Hearts Apart is an on-going program for spouses of deployed service members. The program offers such services as e-mail, morale calls, videophone calls and free oil changes. For information, contact Tech. Sgt. Ken Gilmore at 963-5630.

Charleston Profile

Fred Gregston 437th Aerial Port Squadron

Fred Gregston is the Ramp Services section day-shift supervisor of the 437th Aerial Port Squadron Air Freight Flight. Gregston's responsibilities include overseeing the majority of aircraft cargo on-load and off-load, and controlling the material handling equipment used to perform the job. In addition, he is also responsible for inventory and control of aircraft cargo handling equipment used on both home station and transit aircraft. He gives all the credit for the hard work handling cargo to his coworkers throughout the flight.

"Cargo processing and special handling prepare the pallets for us and we load them onto the equipment handlers and eventually the aircraft," says Gregston. "It's not just one person, it's everyone as a team who gets the job done."

Gregston came to Charleston AFB in July 1985 as master sergeant. He retired in 1986 and became a full-time civil service employee to continue doing the work he enjoys. Although now classified as a supervisor, he maintains that he still finds enjoyment in operating the loading equipment and assisting others in doing the work.

"I would say the new 60K loaders are the most comfortable to operate although sometimes it takes an extra set of hands to operate all the controls," said Gregston.

Recently, Gregston volunteered for his second Aerospace Expeditionary Force deployment, a unique occurrence for a civilian employee.

When not busy at work, he can be found making improvements to his home. His hobbies include collecting coins and matchbooks from places he has visited over the years.

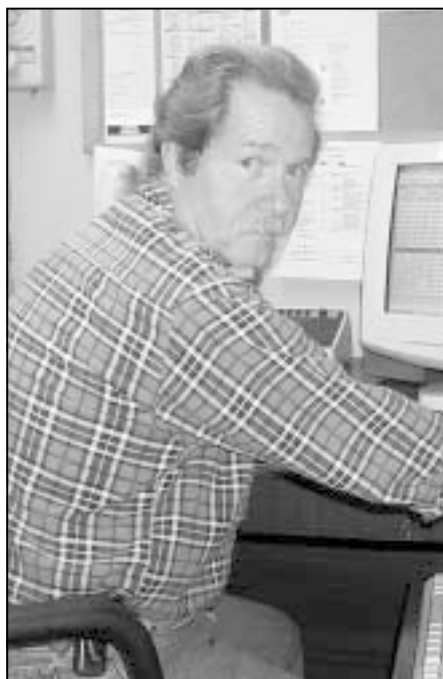


Photo by Senior Airman Donald Church

COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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The deadline for submitting stories for space-available publication is noon Friday, preceeding the desired publication date. The *Airlift Dispatch* reserves the right to edit all copy submitted for publication.

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Mobility exercise proves Team Charleston's go-to-war abilities

By Col. Karl Young
437 AW vice commander

I had a great time at the annual awards banquet Jan. 19. Congratulations to all the nominees and winners for their accomplishments. The evening featured Brig. Gen. Pete Hennessey, Air Mobility Command director of Logistics, as our guest speaker. All who attended appreciated Gen. Hennessey's sense of humor about his humble beginnings at the Air Force Academy and inspiring comments about the importance of who you are as a leader and your impact on others. See the article on page 2 for more details.

I could tell everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. There was a lot of pride, passion and professionalism on display as each group and squadron rallied behind their nominees. Col. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, and I appreciated the outstanding planning that went into this year's events. A special thanks to our emcees, Master Sgt. Tammy Vannetta and Staff Sgt. Michael Hall.

Thanks to chairperson Master Sgt. Winston Moses and the annual awards banquet planning committee for their hard work. Committee members included 2nd Lt. Zabrina Robinson, Frank Metzger, Senior Master Sgt. Bruce Blodgett, Senior Master Sgt. Reese Jones, Master Sgt. Levi Bennett, Master Sgt. Janet Osborne, Master Sgt.

Crystal King, Master Sgt. Tonya Harris, Master Sgt. Michael McKinney, Master Sgt. Buster Davis, and Staff Sgt. John Sheen.

As of press time Wednesday, the mobility exercise has proved to be an outstanding learning experience. From my visits, it was evident that a lot of people worked long hours to make it all happen. This is normal. The key to many of these exercises is solid communication up and down the chain of command. I appreciate all the hard

work by our Logistics Plans folks, our group, our unit control centers and unit deployment managers.

It was a huge challenge to deploy almost 300 people and all their equipment as well as launch a nine-ship C-17 formation in the same week. We learned many good lessons. Although it has been awhile since we practiced setting



Photo by Capt. Tracy Velino

up Base X and running it at North Auxiliary Airfield, everyone pitched in to do their part and make it happen. Future exercises should only run smoother. It was all part of the process of improving our combat capability. Thanks to everyone who played a part. See next week's column for more details.

We welcomed Col. James Reiman, 982nd Training Group commander, and his Command Chief Master Sgt. William Winfrey, who also serves as a technical adviser to the group, for a staff assistance visit of the Air Education and Training Command Field Training Detachment on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The next time you are in the wing headquarters building (Bldg. 1600), you'll notice a series of lithographs of various aircraft

on the first floor near the 437th Support Group and Staff Judge Advocate offices that celebrate our distinguished heritage. The display was designed by Capt. Jon Bakonyi, 437 SPTG executive officer, and is a welcome addition that celebrates our proud past.

You can now wear a new ribbon or oak leaf cluster on your uniform if assigned to the 437th Airlift Wing from July 1, 1998 to June 30, 2000. We received notification recently that we have been awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Civilian employees assigned to the 437th AW are authorized to wear the lapel pin. See your unit orderly rooms for more details.

Have a safe weekend and thanks again for your hard work on the mobility exercise.

Action Line

The Commander's Action line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston Air Force Base a better place to live, work and play.

First give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at 963-5581 or send an e-mail to action@charleston.af.mil

To ensure you receive a response to your concerns, please leave your name and the information needed to contact you.



Team Charleston prepares for tax season

By Capt. Aaron Reed
437 AW Legal

Just as the holidays end, another season of giving is upon Charleston AFB—tax season.

It shouldn't be long before everyone has received their W-2's, interest statements and other tax information necessary to file taxes before the April 16 deadline. It's time to get ready to pull information together and file those 1040EZ's, 1040A's and 1040's with their other required additional forms.

Fortunately for Team Charleston, the CAFB Tax Center has been preparing for the season, and will open for business Monday. The first three days will be for 1040EZ filers only. These returns will be done on a walk-in basis from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Beginning Feb. 1, all tax filing will be accomplished on an appointment basis. The business hours for the tax center will be Mondays-Fridays, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Before arriving at the tax center, it is important to have all tax information to ensure the filing process will go smoothly.

Be sure to contact a squadron volunteer income tax assistance representative if there are any questions about how to properly complete the tax forms. Once all the tax data is compiled, have the VITA representative call the tax

center to schedule an appointment. No appointment scheduling calls will be taken at the tax center before Monday.

The tax center will have various forms available for taxpayers to pick up at their leisure. Additionally, the center may file state returns, if the filer's particular state is available. However, not all states are available for this service. The primary focus of the center will be federal income tax returns. Therefore, not all state filing will be accomplished there.

Possible Tax Benefits for the 2000 Tax Year

There has been very little change in the tax laws from 1999 to 2000. The standard deduction was increased nominally, depending on what filing status is used, and the personal exemption was raised from \$2750 to \$2800. However, it is important to remember there are still a lot of potential benefits available that should not be overlooked. They may require filing extra schedules and using longer forms, but they can be well worth the extra effort.

■ For parents, the child tax credit is a benefit that is worth as much as \$500 per child, but is phased out once the taxpayer reaches certain income levels. To claim this credit, taxpayers are required to provide the

name and social security number of the qualifying child on the return. Generally, a qualifying child is one who is under 17 years old, and can only be claimed on one return.

■ For students who have been actively pursuing degrees in higher education, the Hope Scholarship or Lifetime Learning Credits may provide some tax relief. Only one credit can be claimed in any given year. These credits are intended to offset some of the cost of tuition and related educational expenses for post-secondary education. The maximum Hope credit is \$1,500 and the maximum LLC is \$1,000. Both credits are based upon the amount spent on tuition and related expenses, and both are phased out once the taxpayer's income reaches a certain level, which varies depending on filing status. A related deduction is one given for interest paid on education loans. This generally applies to interest paid on qualified student loans for the first 60 months that interest payments are made. The maximum allowable deduction is \$2,000, which is also phased out once the taxpayer reaches certain income levels.

■ Another important benefit, especially to those who move often, is the exclusion of the gain from the sale of a principle

residence. Taxpayers are allowed to exclude up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 if married filing jointly) of gain realized on the sale of a principal residence. This used to be a one-time exclusion under the tax law, but has since been changed to allow for more than one exclusion if certain basic requirements are met.

■ Finally, it is important to remember that certain military members may benefit from the Combat Zone Exclusion if they spent time in a combat zone or other qualified area. Essentially, the law allows exclusion of all income earned in the month in which the taxpayer was in one of the qualifying areas, even if only there for one day out of that month. However,

there are limitations for officers if their pay exceeds that of the highest rate of enlisted pay. Various types of income can be excluded under this law, so it is important to consider all possible excludable income, not just the base pay.

As tax season approaches remember to maximize benefits when it comes to income tax exclusions, exemptions, deductions and credits. When questions arise this tax season, do not hesitate to consult with squadron and tax center VITA representatives, IRS publications, the IRS Web site and any other resources available. It could end up being time well spent.

For more information, call the tax center at 963-1040, or 963-TAXS.

The grass is greener...or is it?

By Master Sgt. Matt Harless
Career Assistance Advisor

I've had it with the Air Force! I want to make more money, so I'm going to find a better company to work for. And I know exactly what I want!

I want a company that offers a free health club and pool! I want a youth center for my kids, with lots of programs for both my 2nd grader and my teenager. It should provide household items until I get settled into my new house, interest-free loans if I run short of cash, free financial management training, help to figure out and file my taxes, and support groups for new mother and fathers.

I want 30 days of paid vacation every year and free transportation (hops) on aircraft to many exotic

locations and tax-free allowances for food and housing.

My company shouldn't make me punch a clock. If I need to take an hour of personal time off from work for an appointment at school for my kids or a dentist or doctor visit, then I should be allowed to.

Let's not forget my spiritual needs! My new company has to provide religious education for my kids, and a chapel. And if my spouse and I should need marriage counseling, I get that, too! And it must help out employees who are short of money at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Oh yes, I want a company cafeteria where I can get a full breakfast for a buck and maybe \$2 for lunch. How about a company grocery store where prices are 30 percent lower than anyplace else in town? I want a library and a bowling alley. I want a place where my dog can get shots--and of course, the

company has to give me my flu shot every year for free. Hey, how about a place to work on my car, and a woodworking shop?

My new company will help me go to college. Naturally, they'll pay 75-100 percent of the tuition, and have night classes on site. Give me free tests to earn credits without going to classes. I want a theater and a nice club for office parties or to socialize after I get off work.

How about low-cost life insurance? I'd like at least \$200,000 of coverage for under \$20 a month. Also, I want to be able to make payroll deductions to pay some of my monthly bills.

My new company will protect me if my supervisor tries to sexually harass me, or treat me different because of my race. Complete medical care is a must. How about free eye exams, dental work, OB services for my wife and even surgery? I want all of my prescription drugs free as well. I want free

professional development training to help me get promoted to a higher-paying job.

What else do I want out of my new company? A flying club! Organized tours like pro sporting events and ski trips during the week and on weekends! I want parks for my kids to play in while we have a family picnic. I want a place to buy airline tickets. I want police and fire protection on site, workplace safety programs and classes to teach me how to work my computer.

But more than anything, I want my company to be staffed with highly motivated professionals and people who get quality training from competent supervisors. I want my company to have high standards. I want to be part of a winning team. And above all--I want to work for a company that is doing something important!

So that's what I want out of the company I work for! Got any suggestions?

FEATURE

Accessories Flight embodies Total Force concept

By Capt. Tracy Velino
437 AW Public Affairs

Sixty-one members of the 437th Maintenance Squadron Accessories Flight work as a true Total Force to keep electrical, hydraulic and fuels systems running in Charleston AFB's 40 C-17 Globemaster IIIs.

Eighteen civilian DOD employees, seven air reserve technicians and thirty-six active-duty members together make up the flight's electro-environmental, pneudraulics (hydraulic systems), and fuels shops.

"We're partners in our profession," explained Calvin Newman, flight foreman, about the relationship between his job and the active-duty flight superintendent, Senior Master Sgt. Grace Picicci. "We do basically the same job. It really takes two people." Newman and Picicci added that the civilian position provides much-needed continuity for the flight.

In addition to the flight's 61-member melting pot, the Reserve 315th Maintenance Squadron Accessories Flight takes over the three shops during unit training assembly weekends, once a month.

"Our active-duty shop integrates well with the reserve unit," said Manuel Flores, an ART, and the assistant pneudraulics shop chief. "We do the same tasks, so the transition between us is smooth."

While the flight's mission is diverse, Picicci explained the connection between the shops is they all work primarily with systems that run throughout the aircraft. "Other flights deal with structures, or with more confined systems."

"We're called backshops," Picicci said. "But we have a lot to do with keeping the C-17s flying."

The pneudraulics shop is responsible for the maintenance of the 12 brakes on each C-17, the cargo wench assemblies and the main landing gear shock struts.

Flores said about 80 percent of their work is to perform in-shop repairs of brakes.

Senior Airman John Parker, a hydraulics systems specialist, put it simply, "We stop the planes." They ensure C-17 aircrews have the brakes and shock struts they need to land, slow down during taxiing and stop the planes.

"And the fuels shop

makes the planes go," said Picicci.

Fuel shop members are responsible for fuels systems on the aircraft. Their work differs from the other two Accessories Flight sections in that it does not include scheduled maintenance, other than to check some parts during the squadron's overall home station checks of each aircraft.

"As fuel systems fail, we are required to troubleshoot," said Master Sgt. Brian Robertson, NCOIC of the fuels section. Two members of the shop are on call at all times to fly anywhere in the world to handle fuel system failures of CAFB's C-17s.

"One of the most interesting things about what we do is that we crawl around inside the gas tank," said Senior Airman Brian Sergeant, fuel systems apprentice. There is a fuel tank in each wing of the C-17, and Sergeant said he can stand straight up in it with only his head and shoulders sticking out of the hatch on top of the wing that he uses for entry.

The electro-environmental shop's primary mission is to keep all electrical and environmental (i.e. air conditioning, pressurization and oxygen) systems and components running in support of the C-17. They also support the 437th Medical Group's life support systems and liquid oxygen converters. The majority of the shop's work is to perform home station checks and to repair and inspect aerospace ground equipment (i.e. liquid oxygen and nitrogen carts), aircraft components and batteries.

Trecy said they're always looking for new ways to save the Air Force money. "As an example, every time we repair one of the aircraft galleys (section that includes sink and refrigerator), we save the Air Force \$97,000," he said.

Members of each section said



Photo by Capt. John Ruth

David Robinson, 437th Maintenance Squadron Accessories flight electro-environmental work leader, checks out an emergency battery power supplier.

how important it was for their shops to have technicians with many years of experience to provide on-the-job training to more junior members.

"We've got some very good technicians here. We have thirty-plus years of experience in our shop," said Trecy as he pointed around the room to Harry Leming, shop foreman and civilian with 30 years experience, David Robinson, a civilian work leader with 32 years, Carl Parnell, a civilian technician with 31 years, and Senior Master Sgt. Ed Towe, an ART with 30 years.

"Young guys straight from tech school can tap right into years of knowledge," Trecy added. "They get brought up to speed real fast."

Towe said the range of experience sustains the mission even when they lose one of their most experienced members.

"It'll be just like pulling a hand out of a bucket of water," said Towe. "It'll ripple a little and then smooth right over."

Parker said he learned most of what he needs to know for his job through on-the-job training.

Sergeant echoed Parker, saying he gets help from civilians "because they've been here longest."

Flores said, "It's rewarding to meet new people coming through the system and to teach them about the C-17.

"It's a challenge to work with both reserve and active duty for training and production, but the shop superintendent fosters mutual respect and understanding," he added. "And he provides lots of opportunities for growth for all of the individuals in the shop—civilian, reserve, and active duty."



Photo by Capt. Tracy Velino

Senior Airman Brian Sergeant, 437th Maintenance Squadron Accessories Flight fuels system apprentice, handles an in-flight refueling tester.



Photo by Capt. John Ruth

(Left) Manuel Flores, 437th Maintenance Squadron assistant shop chief for pneudraulics, and Senior Airman John Parker, 437 MXS hydraulics systems specialist, assemble a C-17 brake.



MAGNOLIA PLACE DINING FACILITY

On the Menu



Today

Lunch: Bean soup, herb and lemon baked fish, braised spare ribs, stuffed cabbage rolls, potatoes au gratin, egg noodles, green beans, peas and carrots, simmered beans, gravy

Dinner: Chicken, meat loaf, mashed potatoes, lemon rice, black-eyed peas, squash, corn

Saturday

Lunch: Beef noodle soup, fried fish, roast pork, liver with onions, macaroni and cheese, rice, wax beans, cauliflower, zucchini, brown gravy

Dinner: Tacos, oven-fried chicken, mexican rice, baked potatoes, refried beans, succotash, broccoli, cheese sauce, stewed tomatoes

Sunday

Lunch: Onion soup, turkey nuggets, spaghetti with meat sauce, knockwurst with kraut, parsley-buttered potatoes, fried rice, mixed vegetables, fried cabbage, fried okra, chicken gravy, garlic toast

Dinner: Beef porcupines, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, rice pilaf, corn-on-the-cob, green beans, beets

Monday

Lunch: Beef vegetable soup, cornish hens, fish portions, corn bread dress-

ing, mashed potatoes, stewed tomatoes, broccoli, corn, brown gravy

Dinner: Pepper steak, chicken tenders, rice, potatoes o'brien, vegetable stir-fry, carrots, collard greens

Tuesday

Lunch: Cream of potato soup, t-bone steak, baked fish, chicken breast, baked potatoes, cauliflower, broccoli, onions and mushrooms, gravy

Dinner: Baked chicken, lasagna, parsley-buttered potatoes, noodles, spinach, vegetables, stewed tomatoes, garlic toast

Wednesday

Lunch: Chicken noodle soup, chicken stir-fry, roast beef, polish sausage, rice, oven-browned potatoes, glazed carrots, creole summer squash, fried cabbage, brown gravy

Dinner: Fried catfish, cordon bleu, cottage-fried potatoes, rice pilaf, black-eyed peas, green beans with mushrooms, corn-on-the-cob

Thursday-Southern Meal

Lunch: Barbecue ribs, fried chicken, fried fish, ham hocks, macaroni and cheese, dirty rice, yams, black-eyed peas, collard greens

Dinner: Roast turkey, veal cutlets, egg noodles, bread dressing, peas and carrots, cream corn



YORR

Staff Sgt. Dan Dimatteo, Air Force recruiter, talks with potential recruits about Air Force opportunities during a visit to Charleston AFB.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

Fitness & Sports

Sports line

HAWC News: Do you know your numbers? You can still sign up at the HAWC Monday-Thursday for a cholesterol screening on Friday.

For more information on these programs, call the HAWC at 963-4007.

No restriction: Individuals on the Monitored Fitness Improvement Program are now allowed to utilize the base fitness center for exercising and will no longer be restricted to exercising at the Health and Wellness Center. Those on the MFIP will carry and maintain their own MFIP cards and after exercising will be able to have their MFIP cards documented by either the HAWC or fitness center personnel only. The fitness center hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and holidays from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. For questions or comments, call the HAWC at 963-4007.

Protective eyewear, exams prevent loss of vision

By Capt. Tina Luichinger
437 MDG

About 80 percent of the information we receive about the world around us comes from our vision. However, many of us may take this precious sense for granted.

The American Optometry Association recommends

eye examinations once every two or three years if you're 19 to 40 years old, and once every year if you're 41 to 60 years old. Children should be examined prior to entering school.

A complete eye examination includes a vision analysis, accommodative evaluation (focusing ability of your eyes), binocular vision evaluation (how well your eyes work together) and an internal and external ocular health evaluation. Examinations can uncover problems not generally thought of as eye-related. For ex-

ample, diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol are all often detected by an optometrist.

Spectacles or vision training may stop headaches and computer-related eye straining. If your child has difficulty with schoolwork, spectacles or vision training may also be able to make a difference.

Prevention is key when it comes to eye injuries. More than 70 percent of eye injuries occur at work, according to professors at Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Causes include hammering, drilling, wire cutting or chemical burns. Safety goggles can prevent injuries to your eyes.

Sports cause nearly 70,000 eye injuries each year, according to the professors. Basketball, baseball, hockey and racket sports are the most likely to cause eye-related injuries.

If you use protective eyewear, 99 percent of these injuries can be prevented. Any optician can sell sport goggles and if you wear glasses, the prescription can be put in the lenses.

If you wear contact lenses, beware. They might not be as safe as you may think. Contact lenses top the list of consumer products that cause eye-related injuries. If you wear contact lenses, you increase your chance of infection, abrasion and corneal ulceration. This is especially true if you have extended-wear lenses and sleep in them, and if you fail to care for the contact lenses properly.

You should schedule routine eye examinations and observe all safety precautions. They can go a long way in protecting your vision. For more information, call the optometry clinic at 963-6855.

